

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2 with the following:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This application is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/262,064 filed on March 4, 1999, hereby incorporated by reference as to its entirety. The present invention relates to a communication method and apparatus, and in particular a method and apparatus for mobile satellite communication which provides a short processing delay, a high coding gain and efficient use of bandwidth.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Voice, fax and data communication capabilities are available through mobile satellite communication systems. For example, the Inmarsat-MTM and Inmarsat mini-MTM systems support a data rate of 2.4 kbit/s, while the Inmarsat-BTM system provides data rates of up to 16 kbit/s. However, in terrestrial communications data rates of 28.8 kbit/s are commonly used over a PSTN under the ITU V.34 standard, and data rates of 56 or 64 kbit/s per channel are available over ISDN. Many internet-based and conferencing applications require the data rates available over terrestrial networks. Such applications cannot be used satisfactorily on conventional mobile satellite terminals.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23 with the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a satellite communications system in which data can be transmitted by any one of a plurality of different data rates, selected such that each of said data rates can be achieved by dividing a clock rate by only small

prime numbers a small number of times.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 with the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Specific embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14 with the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in Figure 1, mobile terminal equipment 4 is connected to a mobile earth station (MES) 6. The mobile terminal equipment 4 sends digital data to the MES 6 for RF modulation and transmission to a satellite 8, and the MES 6 receives and demodulates digital data from the satellite 8, the demodulated data then being sent to the mobile terminal equipment 4.